

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 4, 1881.

Professor Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of the Southern Merganser (*Mergus australis*, Hombr. et Jacq. Voy. au Pôle Sud, Zool. iii. p. 152, Atlas, t. 31. fig. 2), from the Auckland Islands, belonging to the collection of Baron Anatole von Hügel.

Baron A. von Hügel had obtained two examples of this very scarce bird from the Auckland Islands when in New Zealand in 1875, and had presented one of them to the British Museum. The other was now exhibited. The acquisition of these birds had been already recorded by Baron A. von Hügel in the *Ibis* for 1875 (p. 392), but had been overlooked by Mr. Sclater in his recent paper on the Anatidæ (P. Z. S. 1880, p. 513).

Mr. Sclater observed that, though the colouring of the plate in the 'Voyage au Pôle Sud' seemed rather too bright, there could be no question, he thought, of Baron A. Von Hügel's bird being referable to the same species. *Mergus australis* appeared to come nearest to *Mergus brasiliensis*, as already indicated by Hombron and Pucheran, but differed in its brown head, the longitudinal (not transverse) markings below, and longer bill. As regards the form of the tail, commented on by Hombron and Pucheran, there seemed to be little difference between the two species.

Prof. Newton, M.A., F.R.S., exhibiting, on behalf of Prof. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, For. Mem. Z. S., an egg of *Cariama cristata*, remarked:—

"This rare egg was lately sent to me by M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, that I might exhibit it to the Society. He writes to me:— 'L'œuf de *Cariama* dont je vous ai parlé a été pondu à la Ménagerie au Muséum cet été. La ponte est de 2 œufs. Le mâle et la femelle couvent successivement. Une éclosion a eu lieu au bout de 29 jours.

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Le jeune était convert de duvet gris, relevé de taches d'un brun foncé. Malheureusement il a été mangé par le père, et les observations n'ont pu être continuées.'

"The egg unfortunately arrived broken. It is white, very sparsely blotched with reddish-brown, a few of the markings taking the form of irregular hair-like lines, and measures 2.24 by 1.62 in. Thienemann, in his 'Fortpflanzungsgeschichte der gesammten Vögel,' has figured what he professes to call a specimen of this egg (tab. lxxii. fig. 14); but, as is well known, the letterpress of that work is incomplete, and no one can say whether the specimen was genuine. In like manner M. des Murs, in his 'Oologie Ornithologique,' has described the egg of this species (p. 368); but, again, evidence as to the authenticity of the specimen is not forthcoming. On the receipt of this egg from M. Milne-Edwards, I at once be-thought me of an egg which had long been known to me as existing in the collection of Mr. H. F. Walter F.Z.S.; and that gentleman has been so kind as to send it to me for exhibition to-night. This specimen is considerably larger than that laid in captivity, and also is more highly coloured. In appearance it at once calls to mind eggs of the *Rallidæ*, while the egg from Paris can hardly be said to show such an affinity. It is to be hoped that before long greater success may attend the attempts at inducing this interesting form to breed, either in the Jardin des Plantes or the Gardens of our Society, so that some more distinct conclusion may be drawn, from the evidence thus to be obtained, as to the affinities of *Cariama*."

The following papers were read:—

1. Account of the Zoological Collections made during the Survey of H.M.S. 'Alert' in the Straits of Magellan and on the Coast of Patagonia. Communicated by Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S., F.Z.S., Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received November 4, 1880.]

(Plates I.—XI.)

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| <p>I. Mammalia, by OLDFIELD THOMAS, p. 3.</p> <p>II. Birds, by R. B. SHARPE, p. 6.</p> <p>III. Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes, by Dr. A. GÜNTHER, p. 18.</p> <p>IV. Mollusca and Moluscoïda, by E. A. SMITH, p. 22.</p> <p>V. Polyzoa, by S. O. RIDLEY, p. 44.</p> <p>VI. Crustacea, by E. J. MIERS, p. 61.</p> | <p>VII. Coleoptera, by O. O. WATERHOUSE, p. 80.</p> <p>VIII. Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, and Hemiptera, by A. G. BUTLER, p. 82.</p> <p>IX. Echinodermata, by F. J. BELL, p. 87.</p> <p>X. Cœlenterata and Spongiidæ, by S. O. RIDLEY, p. 101.</p> |
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The collections described in the following series of papers were made by Dr. R. W. COPPINGER, Staff-Surgeon of H.M.S. 'Alert,' during the cruise of that ship on the coasts of the southern ex-